

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ASSEMBLY, No. 4769

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN
District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)
Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD
District 6 (Burlington and Camden)
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Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI
District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)
Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Johnson

SYNOPSIS

Makes various revisions to requirements for obtaining a firearm purchaser identification card, permit to purchase a handgun, and permit to carry a handgun; codifies sensitive places in which firearms and destructive devices are prohibited.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2022)

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1 AN ACT concerning the sale and possession of firearms and
2 supplementing and amending various parts of the statutory law.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The decision of the United States Supreme Court in New
9 York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen holds significant
10 implications for carrying a handgun in New Jersey and the law
11 governing the issuance of permits to carry a handgun. The Bruen
12 decision establishes that states cannot deny permits to carry a
13 handgun to otherwise-qualified citizens who fail to show that they
14 have the “proper cause” to carry a handgun. New Jersey law relies
15 on a similar standard, considering whether an applicant has a
16 “justifiable need,” in determining whether to issue a permit to carry
17 a handgun.

18 b. In accordance with the precedent established in the Bruen
19 decision, laws requiring showings of particularized need are no
20 longer legally viable to determine whether a person may carry a
21 handgun in public. The Bruen decision does make clear, however,
22 that the Legislature can enact laws to protect our communities from
23 threats to public health, safety, and welfare posed by gun violence,
24 which take into account as appropriate the Supreme Court’s Second
25 Amendment ruling while continuing to promote and enhance public
26 safety.

27 c. Statistics show that expanding handgun carrying creates
28 safety risks, helping to fuel the epidemic of gun violence. For
29 example, a study by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
30 School of Public Health found that the estimated average rate of
31 officer-involved shootings increased by 12.9 percent in ten states
32 that relaxed restrictions between 2014 and 2020 on civilians
33 carrying concealed firearms in public. Accordingly, evidence
34 demonstrates that more guns on the streets can translate into more
35 acts of gun violence. To mitigate the impact of having more people
36 carrying guns in public places, steps must be taken to better ensure
37 that those who exercise the right to carry are responsible, law-
38 abiding, and appropriately trained individuals who would not pose
39 undue safety risks if armed in public places.

40 d. In Bruen, the Supreme Court recognized that states may
41 prohibit individuals who are not “law-abiding, responsible citizens”
42 from carrying firearms in public, and endorsed the use of “licensing
43 requirements for carrying a handgun for self-defense.” Although the
44 Court did not provide a complete list of lawful requirements, it
45 specifically cited a “background check, mental health check, training

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 in firearms handling and in laws regarding the use of force, among
 2 other possible requirements” as permissible. The purpose of these
 3 checks, the Court explained, is to “ensure only that those bearing
 4 arms in the jurisdiction are in fact, ‘law-abiding, responsible
 5 citizens.’” It is thus important to bolster and improve the process in
 6 this State for ensuring that only such individuals possess and carry
 7 firearms. Toward that end, this act strengthens the criteria and
 8 background investigation requirements that are used to determine
 9 whether an applicant is qualified to carry a firearm in New Jersey.

10 e. This act also designates places in which the carrying of a
 11 firearm or destructive device is prohibited. Previously, application
 12 of the justifiable need standard minimized the serious dangers of
 13 misuse and accidental use inherent in the carrying of handguns in a
 14 public place. Given the likelihood that a much greater number of
 15 individuals will now qualify to carry handguns in public, it is now
 16 both necessary and appropriate to clearly identify in the law those
 17 sensitive places where, due to heightened public safety concerns,
 18 carrying a dangerous, potentially lethal device or weapon, including
 19 a handgun, is not permissible. These prohibitions are based on
 20 common sense principles and historical analogues.

21 f. Notwithstanding its rejection of a particularized need
 22 standard, the Bruen decision recognizes that the carrying of
 23 firearms in sensitive places can “be prohibited consistent with the
 24 Second Amendment.” Indeed, the Court assumed it settled that
 25 “laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such
 26 as schools and government buildings,” as well as other places such
 27 as “legislative assemblies, polling places, and courthouses,” are
 28 “longstanding” and not subject to disputes regarding their
 29 constitutionality. The Court added that other “sensitive place”
 30 regulations may be permissible if “consistent with the Second
 31 Amendment’s text and historical understanding” – that is,
 32 “relevantly similar” to historical analogues.

33 g. The sensitive-place prohibitions on dangerous weapons set
 34 forth in this act are rooted in history and tradition. They are
 35 analogous to historical laws that can be found from the Founding
 36 era to Reconstruction, which are also found in modern laws in many
 37 states. History and tradition support at least the following location-
 38 based restrictions on carrying firearms:

39 (1) Places that are the site of core constitutional activity, such as
 40 but not limited to the exercise of First Amendment rights, or that
 41 are otherwise vital to the functioning of democracy and our system
 42 of government. That includes prohibitions of firearms in facilities
 43 within the criminal justice system;

44 (2) Schools, universities, other educational institutions, where
 45 people assemble for educational purposes and for the purposes of
 46 teaching, learning, research, and the pursuit of knowledge;

47 (3) Parks and other recreation spaces, including locations where
 48 children congregate;

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1 (4) Locations that protect vulnerable classes of people, such as
2 the young and the frail;

3 (5) Places where intoxicating substances are sold, places where
4 large groups of individuals congregate, and places where volatile
5 conditions may pose a threat to public safety; and

6 (6) Various forms of transportation and public infrastructure,
7 whose safety, security, and stability are critical to supporting social
8 function.

9 h. The historical record also supports restriction of firearm
10 possession on private property when the owner has not given their
11 consent. Many states require a property owner's permission before
12 another may enter private dwellings and private lands with a
13 firearm or other weapons. Requiring consent from the property
14 owner before carrying weapons onto private property is also in line
15 with both the reasonable expectations and property rights of New
16 Jersey property owners.

17 i. Additionally, the fees to obtain a firearms purchaser
18 identification permit or a permit to purchase a handgun in New
19 Jersey were initially set by statute over 50 years ago at \$5 and \$2,
20 respectively, and in over a half century the law has never been
21 changed to increase these fees, notwithstanding the impact of
22 inflation, increasing costs of background checks and related
23 investigations, and the investment made over the years to
24 technologically upgrade the firearms application and registration
25 system established and maintained by the New Jersey State Police.

26 j. Accordingly, the Legislature finds it is necessary and proper
27 to revise this State's procedural and substantive laws related to
28 firearms to update the process and the standards applicable to
29 firearm purchase and possession as well as our handgun carry law,
30 and to continue to promote public safety and reduce gun violence in
31 a manner consistent with the Second Amendment principles
32 articulated by the current Supreme Court jurisprudence. These
33 revisions will focus on factors other than the need or purpose a
34 person may assert as justification to carry a handgun, such as the
35 person's background and qualifications, with the ultimate goal of
36 keeping New Jersey streets and neighborhoods safe from gun
37 violence.

38

39 2. N.J.S.2C:58-3 is amended to read as follows:

40 2C:58-3. a. Permit to purchase a handgun.

41 (1) **【No】** A person shall not sell, give, transfer, assign or
42 otherwise dispose of, nor receive, purchase, or otherwise acquire a
43 handgun unless the purchaser, assignee, donee, receiver or holder is
44 licensed as a dealer under this chapter or has first secured a permit
45 to purchase a handgun as provided by this section.

46 (2) A person who is not a licensed retail dealer and sells, gives,
47 transfers, assigns, or otherwise disposes of, or receives, purchases

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1 or otherwise acquires a handgun pursuant to this section shall
2 conduct the transaction through a licensed retail dealer.

3 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply if the transaction
4 is:

5 (a) between members of an immediate family as defined in
6 subsection n. of this section;

7 (b) between law enforcement officers;

8 (c) between collectors of firearms or ammunition as curios or
9 relics as defined in Title 18, U.S.C. section 921 (a) (13) who have
10 in their possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License
11 issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and
12 Explosives; or

13 (d) a temporary transfer pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1992, c.74
14 (C.2C:58-3.1) or section 1 of P.L.1997, c.375 (C.2C:58-3.2).

15 (3) Prior to a transaction conducted pursuant to this subsection,
16 the retail dealer shall complete a National Instant Criminal
17 Background Check of the person acquiring the handgun. In
18 addition:

19 (a) the retail dealer shall submit to the Superintendent of State
20 Police, on a form approved by the superintendent, information
21 identifying and confirming the background check;

22 (b) every retail dealer shall maintain a record of transactions
23 conducted pursuant to this subsection, which shall be maintained at
24 the address displayed on the retail dealer's license for inspection by
25 a law enforcement officer during reasonable hours;

26 (c) a retail dealer may charge a fee for a transaction conducted
27 pursuant to this subsection; and

28 (d) any record produced pursuant to this subsection shall not be
29 considered a public record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et
30 seq.) or P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.).

31 b. Firearms purchaser identification card.

32 (1) **【No】** A person shall not sell, give, transfer, assign or
33 otherwise dispose of nor receive, purchase or otherwise acquire an
34 antique cannon or a rifle or shotgun, other than an antique rifle or
35 shotgun, unless the purchaser, assignee, donee, receiver or holder is
36 licensed as a dealer under this chapter or possesses a valid firearms
37 purchaser identification card, and first exhibits the card to the seller,
38 donor, transferor or assignor, and unless the purchaser, assignee,
39 donee, receiver or holder signs a written certification, on a form
40 prescribed by the superintendent, which shall indicate that **【he】** the
41 person presently complies with the requirements of subsection c. of
42 this section and shall contain **【his】** the person's name, address and
43 firearms purchaser identification card number or dealer's
44 registration number. The certification shall be retained by the
45 seller, as provided in paragraph (4) of subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:58-
46 2, or, in the case of a person who is not a dealer, it may be filed
47 with the chief **【of】** police officer of the municipality in which **【he】**
48 the person resides or with the superintendent.

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1 (2) A person who is not a licensed retail dealer and sells, gives,
 2 transfers, assigns, or otherwise disposes of, or receives, purchases
 3 or otherwise acquires an antique cannon or a rifle or shotgun
 4 pursuant to this section shall conduct the transaction through a
 5 licensed retail dealer.

6 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply if the transaction
 7 is:

8 (a) between members of an immediate family as defined in
 9 subsection n. of this section;

10 (b) between law enforcement officers;

11 (c) between collectors of firearms or ammunition as curios or
 12 relicas as defined in Title 18, U.S.C. section 921 (a) (13) who have
 13 in their possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics License
 14 issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and
 15 Explosives; or

16 (d) a temporary transfer pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1992, c.74
 17 (C.2C:58-3.1) and section 1 of P.L.1997, c.375 (C.2C:58-3.2).

18 (3) Prior to a transaction conducted pursuant to this subsection,
 19 the retail dealer shall complete a National Instant Criminal
 20 Background Check of the person acquiring an antique cannon or a
 21 rifle or shotgun. In addition:

22 (a) the retail dealer shall submit to the Superintendent of State
 23 Police, on a form approved by the superintendent, information
 24 identifying and confirming the background check;

25 (b) every retail dealer shall maintain a record of transactions
 26 conducted pursuant to this section which shall be maintained at the
 27 address set forth on the retail dealer's license for inspection by a law
 28 enforcement officer during reasonable hours;

29 (c) a retail dealer may charge a fee, not to exceed \$70, for a
 30 transaction conducted pursuant to this subsection; and

31 (d) any record produced pursuant to this subsection shall not be
 32 considered a public record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et
 33 seq.) or P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.).

34 c. Who may obtain. 【No】 Except as hereinafter provided, a
 35 person 【of good character and good repute】 shall not be denied a
36 permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms purchaser identification
37 card, unless the person is known in the community in which 【he】
38 the person lives as someone who has engaged in acts or made
39 statements suggesting the person is likely to engage in conduct,
40 other than justified self-defense, that would pose a danger to self or
41 others, 【and who】 or is 【not】 subject to any of the disabilities set
42 forth in this section or other sections of this chapter 【, shall be
43 denied a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms purchaser
44 identification card, except as hereinafter set forth】. 【No】 A
45 handgun purchase permit or firearms purchaser identification card
46 shall not be issued:

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1 (1) To any person who has been convicted of : (a) any crime in
 2 this State or its felony counterpart in any other state or federal
 3 jurisdiction; or (b) a disorderly persons offense in this State
 4 involving an act of domestic violence as defined in section 3 of
 5 P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-19) or its felony or misdemeanor
 6 counterpart involving an act of domestic violence as defined under
 7 a comparable statute in any other state or federal jurisdiction,
 8 whether or not armed with or possessing a weapon at the time of the
 9 offense;

10 (2) To any drug-dependent person as defined in section 2 of
 11 P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-2), to any person who is presently
 12 confined for a mental disorder to a hospital, mental institution or
 13 sanitarium as a voluntary admission as defined in section 2 of
 14 P.L.1987, c.116 (C.30:4-27.2) or who is presently involuntarily
 15 committed to inpatient or outpatient treatment pursuant to section
 16 1 of P.L.1987, c.116 (C.30:4-27.1 et seq.) [or to any person who is
 17 presently an habitual drunkard];

18 (3) To any person who suffers from a physical defect or disease
 19 which would make it unsafe for him that person to handle
 20 firearms, to any person who has ever been confined for a mental
disorder, to any person with a substance use disorder involving
drugs as defined in section 2 of P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-2), or to
 23 any alcoholic as defined in section 2 of P.L.1975, c.305 (C.26:2B-8)
 24 unless any of the foregoing persons produces a certificate of a
 25 medical doctor, treatment provider, or psychiatrist licensed in New
 26 Jersey, or other satisfactory proof, that he the person is no longer
 27 suffering from that particular disability in a manner that would
 28 interfere with or handicap him that person in the handling of
 29 firearms; to any person who knowingly falsifies any information on
 30 the application form for a handgun purchase permit or firearms
 31 purchaser identification card;

32 (4) To any person under the age of 18 years for a firearms
 33 purchaser identification card and to any person under the age of 21
 34 years for a permit to purchase a handgun;

35 (5) To any person where the issuance would not be in the interest
 36 of the public health, safety or welfare because the person is found to
be lacking the essential character of temperament necessary to be
entrusted with a firearm;

39 (6) To any person who is subject to or has violated a temporary
 40 or final restraining order issued pursuant to the "Prevention of
 41 Domestic Violence Act of 1991", P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et
 42 seq.) prohibiting the person from possessing any firearm or a
 43 temporary or final domestic violence restraining order issued in
 44 another jurisdiction prohibiting the person from possessing any
firearm;

46 (7) To any person who as a juvenile was adjudicated delinquent
 47 for an offense which, if committed by an adult, would constitute a

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1 crime and the offense involved the unlawful use or possession of a
 2 weapon, explosive or destructive device or is enumerated in
 3 subsection d. of section 2 of P.L.1997, c.117 (C.2C:43-7.2);

4 (8) To any person whose firearm is seized pursuant to the
 5 "Prevention of Domestic Violence Act of 1991", P.L.1991, c.261
 6 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) and whose firearm has not been returned; or

7 (9) To any person named on the consolidated Terrorist Watchlist
 8 maintained by the Terrorist Screening Center administered by the
 9 Federal Bureau of Investigation;

10 (10) To any person who is subject to or has violated a court order
 11 prohibiting the custody, control, ownership, purchase, possession,
 12 or receipt of a firearm or ammunition issued pursuant to the
 13 "Extreme Risk Protective Order Act of 2018", P.L.2018, c.35
 14 (C.2C:58-20 et al.);

15 (11) To any person who is subject to or has violated a court order
 16 prohibiting the custody, control, ownership, purchase, possession,
 17 or receipt of a firearm or ammunition issued pursuant to P.L.2021,
 18 c.327 (C.2C:12-14 et al.);

19 (12) To any person who is subject to or has violated a temporary
 20 or final restraining order issued pursuant to the "Sexual Assault
 21 Survivor Protection Act of 2015," P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et
 22 al.);

23 (13) To any person who has previously been voluntarily admitted
 24 to inpatient treatment pursuant to P.L.1987, c.116 (C.30:4-27.1 et
 25 seq.) or involuntarily committed to inpatient or outpatient treatment
 26 pursuant to P.L.1987, c.116 (C.30:4-27.1 et seq.), unless the court
 27 has expunged the person's record pursuant to P.L.1953, c.268
 28 (C.30:4-80.8 et seq.);

29 (14) To any person who is subject to an outstanding arrest
 30 warrant for an indictable crime in this State or for a felony, other
 31 than a felony to which section 1 of P.L.2022, c.50 (C.2A:160-14.1)
 32 would apply, in any other state or federal jurisdiction; or

33 (15) To any person who is a fugitive from justice due to having
 34 fled from any state or federal jurisdiction to avoid prosecution for a
 35 crime, other than a crime to which section 1 of P.L.2022, c.50
 36 (C.2A:160-14.1) would apply, or to avoid giving testimony in any
 37 criminal proceeding.

38 In order to obtain a permit to purchase a handgun or a firearms
 39 purchaser identification card, the applicant shall demonstrate that,
 40 within four years prior to the date of the application, the applicant
 41 satisfactorily completed a course of instruction approved by the
 42 superintendent in the lawful and safe handling and storage of
 43 firearms. The applicant shall be required to demonstrate
 44 completion of a course of instruction only once prior to obtaining
 45 either a firearms purchaser identification card or the applicant's first
 46 permit to purchase a handgun.

47 The applicant shall not be required to demonstrate completion of
 48 a course of instruction in order to obtain any subsequent permit to

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1 purchase a handgun, to replace an existing firearms purchaser
2 identification card, or to renew a firearms purchaser identification
3 card.

4 An applicant who is a law enforcement officer who has satisfied
5 the requirements of subsection j. of N.J.S.2C:39-6, a retired law
6 enforcement officer who has satisfied the requirements of
7 subsection l. of N.J.S.2C:39-6, or a veteran who was honorably
8 discharged as a member of the United States Armed Forces or
9 National Guard who received substantially equivalent training shall
10 not be required to complete the course of instruction required
11 pursuant to the provisions of this subsection.

12 A person who obtained a permit to purchase a handgun or a
13 firearms purchaser identification card prior to the effective date of
14 P.L.2022, c.58 shall not be required to complete a course of
15 instruction pursuant to this subsection.

16 d. Issuance. The chief of police officer of an organized full-
17 time police department of the municipality where the applicant
18 resides or the superintendent, in all other cases, shall upon
19 application, issue to any person qualified under the provisions of
20 subsection c. of this section a permit to purchase a handgun or a
21 firearms purchaser identification card.

22 A firearms purchaser identification card issued following the
23 effective date of P.L.2022, c.58 shall display a color photograph
24 and 【a thumb print】 be electronically linked to the fingerprints of
25 the card holder. A person who obtained a firearms purchaser
26 identification card prior to the effective date of P.L.2022, c.58 shall
27 not be required to obtain a 【firearm】 firearms purchaser
28 identification card that displays a color photograph and 【a thumb
29 print】 is electronically linked to fingerprints. The superintendent
30 shall establish guidelines as necessary to effectuate the issuance of
31 firearms purchaser identification cards that display a color
32 photograph and 【a thumb print】 which are electronically linked to
33 the fingerprints of the card holder.

34 The requirements of this subsection concerning firearms
35 purchaser identification cards issued following the effective date of
36 P.L.2022, c.58 shall remain inoperative until such time as the
37 superintendent establishes a system to produce cards that comply
38 with this requirement and, until such time, applicants issued a
39 firearms purchaser identification card shall be provided with cards
40 that do not conform to the requirements of this section, which shall
41 be afforded full force and effect until such time as the system is
42 established and a compliant card is issued in accordance with this
43 subsection. An applicant issued a non-compliant firearms purchaser
44 identification card shall obtain a card, at no cost to the applicant,
45 which conforms to the requirements of this section no later than one
46 year after receiving notice that the system to produce cards that
47 comply with this requirement is operational.

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1 If an application for a permit or identification card is denied, the
 2 applicant shall be provided with a written statement of the reasons
 3 for the denial. Any person aggrieved by the denial of a permit or
 4 identification card may request a hearing in the Superior Court of
 5 the county in which he the person resides if he the person is a
 6 resident of New Jersey or in the Superior Court of the county in
 7 which his the person's application was filed if he the person is
 8 a nonresident. The request for a hearing shall be made in writing
 9 within 30 days of the denial of the application for a permit or
 10 identification card. The applicant shall serve a copy of his the
 11 request for a hearing upon the chief of police officer of the
 12 municipality in which he the person resides, if he the person is
 13 a resident of New Jersey, and upon the superintendent in all cases.
 14 The hearing shall be held and a record made thereof within 30 60
 15 days of the receipt of the application for a hearing by the judge of
 16 the Superior Court. No formal pleading and no filing fee shall be
 17 required as a preliminary to a hearing. Appeals from the results of a
 18 hearing shall be in accordance with law.

19 The Administrative Director of the Courts shall coordinate with
 20 the superintendent in the development of an electronic filing system
 21 to receive requests for hearings and serve the chief police officer
 22 and superintendent as required in this section.

23 e. Applications. Applications for permits to purchase a
 24 handgun and for firearms purchaser identification cards shall be in
 25 the form prescribed by the superintendent and shall set forth the
 26 name, residence, place of business, age, date of birth, occupation,
 27 sex, any aliases or other names previously used by the applicant,
 28 gender, and physical description, including distinguishing physical
 29 characteristics, if any, of the applicant, and shall state whether the
 30 applicant is a citizen, whether he the applicant is an alcoholic ,
 31 habitual drunkard, as defined in section 2 of P.L.1975, c. 305 (C.
 32 26:2B-8) or is a drug-dependent person as defined in section 2 of
 33 P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-2), whether he the applicant has ever
 34 been confined or committed to a mental institution or hospital for
 35 treatment or observation of a mental or psychiatric condition on a
 36 temporary, interim or permanent basis, giving the name and
 37 location of the institution or hospital and the dates of confinement
 38 or commitment, whether he the applicant has been attended,
 39 treated or observed by any doctor or psychiatrist or at any hospital
 40 or mental institution on an inpatient or outpatient basis for any
 41 mental or psychiatric condition, giving the name and location of the
 42 doctor, psychiatrist, hospital or institution and the dates of the
 43 occurrence, whether he the applicant presently or ever has been a
 44 member of any organization which advocates or approves the
 45 commission of acts of force and violence to overthrow the
 46 Government of the United States or of this State, or which seeks to
 47 deny others their rights under the Constitution of either the United

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1 States or the State of New Jersey, whether he the applicant has
2 ever been convicted of a crime or disorderly persons offense in this
3 State or felony or misdemeanor in any other state or federal
4 jurisdiction, whether the person applicant is subject to a
5 restraining order issued pursuant to the "Prevention of Domestic
6 Violence Act of 1991", P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.) or an
7 order entered under the provisions of a substantially similar statute
8 under the laws of another jurisdiction prohibiting the person applicant
9 from possessing any firearm, whether the applicant is
10 subject to a restraining order issued pursuant to the "Sexual Assault
11 Survivor Protection Act of 2015," P.L.2015, c.147 (C.2C:14-13 et
12 al.) or an order entered under the provisions of a substantially
13 similar statute under the laws of another jurisdiction, whether the
14 person applicant is subject to a protective order issued pursuant
15 to the "Extreme Risk Protective Order Act of 2018", P.L.2018, c.35
16 (C.2C:58-20 et al.), whether the person applicant is subject to a
17 protective order issued pursuant to P.L.2021, c.327 (C.2C:12-14 et
18 al.) prohibiting the person applicant from possessing any firearm,
19 and other information as the superintendent shall deem necessary
20 for the proper enforcement of this chapter. For the purpose of
21 complying with this subsection, the applicant shall waive any
22 statutory or other right of confidentiality relating to institutional
23 confinement. The application shall be signed by the applicant and
24 shall contain as references the names and addresses of two
25 reputable citizens personally acquainted with him the applicant.

26 An applicant for a permit to purchase a handgun shall also
27 certify, with respect to each handgun listed on the form, whether the
28 applicant is purchasing the handgun on the applicant's own behalf
29 or, if not, that the purchase is being made on behalf of a third party
30 to whom the applicant may lawfully transfer the handgun.

31 Application blanks shall be obtainable from the superintendent,
32 from any other officer authorized to grant a permit or identification
33 card, and from licensed retail dealers, or shall be made available
34 through an online process established or made available by the
35 superintendent.

36 The chief police officer or the superintendent shall obtain the
37 fingerprints of the applicant and shall have them compared with any
38 and all records of fingerprints in the municipality and county in
39 which the applicant resides and also the records of the State Bureau
40 of Identification and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, provided
41 that an applicant for a handgun purchase permit who possesses a
42 valid firearms purchaser identification card, or who has previously
43 obtained a handgun purchase permit from the same licensing
44 authority for which he the applicant was previously fingerprinted,
45 and who provides other reasonably satisfactory proof of his the
46 applicant's identity, need not be fingerprinted again; however, the
47 chief police officer or the superintendent shall proceed to

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1 investigate the application to determine whether or not the applicant
2 has become subject to any of the disabilities set forth in this
3 chapter.

4 f. Granting of permit or identification card; fee; term; renewal;
5 revocation. The application for the permit to purchase a handgun
6 together with a fee of ~~[\$2]~~ \$25, or the application for the firearms
7 purchaser identification card together with a fee of ~~[\$5]~~ \$50, shall
8 be delivered or forwarded to the licensing authority who, upon
9 determining that the application is complete, shall investigate the
10 same and, unless good cause for the denial thereof appears
11 provided the requirements of this section are met, shall grant the
12 permit or the identification card, or both, if application has been
13 made therefor, within 30 days from the date of receipt of the
14 completed application for residents of this State and within 45 days
15 for nonresident applicants. A permit to purchase a handgun shall be
16 valid for a period of 90 days from the date of issuance and may be
17 renewed by the issuing authority for good cause for an additional 90
18 days. A firearms purchaser identification card issued or renewed
19 after the effective date of P.L.2022, c.58 shall expire during the
20 tenth calendar year following its date of issuance and on the same
21 calendar day as the person's date of birth.

22 If the date of birth of the firearms purchaser identification card
23 holder does not correspond to a calendar day of the tenth calendar
24 year, the card shall expire on the last day of the birth month of the
25 card holder.

26 A firearms purchaser identification card issued pursuant to this
27 section may be renewed upon filing of a renewal application and
28 payment of the required fee, provided that the holder is not subject
29 to any of the disabilities set forth in subsection c. of this section and
30 complies with all other applicable requirements as set forth in
31 statute and regulation. If an application for renewal of a firearms
32 purchaser identification card is denied, the applicant shall be
33 provided with a written statement of the reasons for the denial. Any
34 person aggrieved by the denial of an application for renewal of a
35 firearms purchaser identification card may request a hearing in the
36 Superior Court of the county in which the person resides if the
37 person is a resident of New Jersey or in the Superior Court of the
38 county in which the person's application was filed if the person is a
39 nonresident. The request for a hearing shall be made in writing
40 within 30 days of the denial of the application for renewal of the
41 firearms purchaser identification card. The applicant shall serve a
42 copy of the request for a hearing upon the chief police officer of the
43 municipality in which the applicant resides, if the person is a
44 resident of New Jersey, and upon the superintendent in all cases.
45 The hearing shall be held and a record made thereof within 60 days
46 of the receipt of the application for a hearing by the judge of the
47 Superior Court. A formal pleading and filing fee shall not be

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1 required as a preliminary to a hearing. Appeals from the results of a
 2 hearing shall be in accordance with law.

3 The Administrative Director of the Courts shall coordinate with
 4 the superintendent in the development of an electronic filing system
 5 to receive requests for hearings and serve the chief police officer
 6 and superintendent as required in this section.

7 A firearms purchaser identification card issued prior to the
 8 effective date of P.L.2022, c.58 shall not expire.

9 A firearms purchaser identification card shall be void if the
 10 holder becomes subject to any of the disabilities set forth in
 11 subsection c. of this section, whereupon the card shall be returned
 12 within five days by the holder to the superintendent, who shall then
 13 advise the licensing authority. Failure of the holder to return the
 14 firearms purchaser identification card to the superintendent within
 15 the five days shall be an offense under subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-
 16 10. Any firearms purchaser identification card may be revoked by
 17 the Superior Court of the county wherein the card was issued, after
 18 hearing upon notice, upon a finding that the holder thereof no
 19 longer qualifies for the issuance of the permit. The county
 20 prosecutor of any county, the chief police officer of any
 21 municipality or any citizen may apply to the court at any time for
 22 the revocation of the card.

23 There shall be no conditions or requirements added to the form
 24 or content of the application, or required by the licensing authority
 25 for the issuance or renewal of a permit or identification card, other
 26 than those that are specifically set forth in this chapter.

27 g. Disposition of fees. All fees for permits shall be paid to the
 28 State Treasury for deposit into the Victims of Crime Compensation
 29 Office account if the permit is issued by the superintendent, to the
 30 municipality if issued by the chief of police officer, and to the
 31 county treasurer if issued by the judge of the Superior Court.

32 h. Form of permit; quadruplicate establishment of a web
 33 portal; disposition of copies the completed information. (1)
 34 Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection,
 35 the permit shall be in the form prescribed by the superintendent and
 36 shall be issued to the applicant in quadruplicate electronically
 37 through e-mail or the web portal established or designated for this
 38 purpose by the superintendent or in such form or manner as may be
 39 authorized by the superintendent. Prior to the time he the
 40 applicant receives the handgun from the seller, the applicant shall
 41 deliver provide to the seller an acknowledgement of the permit in
 42 quadruplicate the form required under the process established by
 43 the superintendent, and the seller shall complete all of the
 44 information required on the form web portal. Within five days
 45 of the date of the sale, the seller shall forward the original copy This
 46 information shall be forwarded to the superintendent through
 47 the web portal, or in such other manner as may be authorized by the

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1 superintendent, and the second copy] to the chief of police
 2 officer of the municipality in which the purchaser resides, except
 3 that in a municipality having no chief of police officer, the
 4 copy] the information shall be forwarded to the superintendent.
 5 The third copy shall then be returned to the] purchaser [with the
 6 pistol or revolver] shall retain a copy of the completed information
 7 and the [fourth copy shall be kept by the] seller shall retain a copy
 8 of the completed information as a permanent record.

9 A transfer of a handgun between or among immediate family
 10 members, law enforcement officers, or collectors of firearms or
 11 ammunition as curios or relics shall be conducted via the web portal
 12 established or designated by the superintendent, which shall include
 13 among other things a certification that the seller and purchaser are
 14 in fact immediate family members, law enforcement officers, or
 15 collectors of firearms or ammunition as curios or relics.

16 (2) The requirements of this subsection concerning the delivery
 17 and form of permit and disposition of copies shall not be applicable
 18 when these functions may be completed by utilizing an electronic
 19 system as described in paragraph (2) of subsection b. of
 20 N.J.S.2C:58-2 or section 5 of P.L.2022, c.55 (C.2C:58-3.3a).

21 i. Restriction on number of firearms person may purchase.
 22 Only one handgun shall be purchased or delivered on each permit
 23 and no more than one handgun shall be purchased within any 30-
 24 day period, but this limitation shall not apply to:

25 (1) a federal, State, or local law enforcement officer or agency
 26 purchasing handguns for use by officers in the actual performance
 27 of their law enforcement duties;

28 (2) a collector of handguns as curios or relics as defined in Title
 29 18, United States Code, section 921 (a) (13) who has in his] the
 30 collector's possession a valid Collector of Curios and Relics
 31 License issued by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms
 32 and Explosives;

33 (3) transfers of handguns among licensed retail dealers,
 34 registered wholesale dealers and registered manufacturers;

35 (4) transfers of handguns from any person to a licensed retail
 36 dealer or a registered wholesale dealer or registered manufacturer;

37 (5) any transaction where the person has purchased a handgun
 38 from a licensed retail dealer and has returned that handgun to the
 39 dealer in exchange for another handgun within 30 days of the
 40 original transaction, provided the retail dealer reports the exchange
 41 transaction to the superintendent; or

42 (6) any transaction where the superintendent issues an exemption
 43 from the prohibition in this subsection pursuant to the provisions of
 44 section 4 of P.L.2009, c.186 (C.2C:58-3.4).

45 The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to afford
 46 or authorize any other exemption from the regulatory provisions

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1 governing firearms set forth in chapter 39 and chapter 58 of Title
 2 2C of the New Jersey Statutes;

3 A person shall not be restricted as to the number of rifles or
 4 shotguns ~~he~~ the person may purchase, provided ~~he~~ the person
 5 possesses a valid firearms purchaser identification card and
 6 provided further that ~~he~~ the person signs the certification required
 7 in subsection b. of this section for each transaction.

8 j. Firearms passing to heirs or legatees. Notwithstanding any
 9 other provision of this section concerning the transfer, receipt or
 10 acquisition of a firearm, a permit to purchase or a firearms
 11 purchaser identification card shall not be required for the passing of
 12 a firearm upon the death of an owner thereof to ~~his~~ the owner's
 13 heir or legatee, whether the same be by testamentary bequest or by
 14 the laws of intestacy. The person who shall so receive, or acquire
 15 the firearm shall, however, be subject to all other provisions of this
 16 chapter. If the heir or legatee of the firearm does not qualify to
 17 possess or carry it, ~~he~~ the heir or legatee may retain ownership of
 18 the firearm for the purpose of sale for a period not exceeding 180
 19 days, or for a further limited period as may be approved by the chief
 20 law enforcement officer of the municipality in which the heir or
 21 legatee resides or the superintendent, provided that the firearm is in
 22 the custody of the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality
 23 or the superintendent during that period.

24 k. Sawed-off shotguns. Nothing in this section shall be
 25 construed to authorize the purchase or possession of any sawed-off
 26 shotgun.

27 l. Nothing in this section and in N.J.S.2C:58-2 shall apply to
 28 the sale or purchase of a visual distress signalling device approved
 29 by the United States Coast Guard, solely for possession on a private
 30 or commercial aircraft or any boat; provided, however, that no
 31 person under the age of 18 years shall purchase nor shall any person
 32 sell to a person under the age of 18 years a visual distress signalling
 33 device.

34 m. The provisions of subsections a. and b. of this section and
 35 paragraphs (4) and (5) of subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:58-2 shall not
 36 apply to the purchase of firearms by a law enforcement agency for
 37 use by law enforcement officers in the actual performance of the
 38 ~~current or former judge's~~ officers' official duties, which purchase
 39 may be made directly from a manufacturer or from a licensed dealer
 40 located in this State or any other state.

41 n. For the purposes of this section, "immediate family" means a
 42 spouse, domestic partner as defined in section 3 of P.L.2003, c.246
 43 (C.26:8A-3), partner in a civil union couple as defined in section 2
 44 of P.L.2006, c.103 (C.37:1-29), parent, stepparent, grandparent,
 45 sibling, stepsibling, child, stepchild, and grandchild, as related by
 46 blood or by law.

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1 o. Registration of handguns owned by new residents. Any
 2 person who becomes a resident of this State following the effective
 3 date of P.L.2022, c.52 and who transports into this State a firearm
 4 that the person owned or acquired while residing in another state
 5 shall apply for a ~~firearm~~ firearms purchaser identification card
 6 within 60 days of becoming a New Jersey resident, and shall
 7 register any handgun so transported into this State within 60 days as
 8 provided in this subsection.

9 A person who registers a handgun pursuant to this subsection
 10 shall complete a registration statement, which shall be in a form
 11 prescribed by the superintendent. The information provided in the
 12 registration statement shall include, but shall not be limited to, the
 13 name and address of the person and the make, model, and serial
 14 number of the handgun being registered. Each registration
 15 statement shall be signed by the person, and the signature shall
 16 constitute a representation of the accuracy of the information
 17 contained in the registration statement.

18 The registration statement shall be submitted to the law
 19 enforcement agency of the municipality in which the person resides
 20 or, if the municipality does not have a municipal law enforcement
 21 agency, any State Police station.

22 Within 60 days prior to the effective date of P.L.2022, c.52, the
 23 superintendent shall prepare the form of registration statement as
 24 described in this subsection and shall provide a suitable supply of
 25 statements to each organized full-time municipal police department
 26 and each State Police station.

27 A person who fails to apply for a ~~firearm~~ firearms purchaser
 28 identification card or register a handgun as required pursuant to this
 29 subsection shall be granted 30 days to comply with the provisions
 30 of this subsection. If the person does not comply within 30 days,
 31 the person shall be liable to a civil penalty of \$250 for a first
 32 offense and shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense for a
 33 second or subsequent offense.

34 If a person is in possession of multiple firearms or handguns in
 35 violation of this subsection, the person shall be guilty of one
 36 offense under this subsection provided the violation is a single
 37 event.

38 The civil penalty shall be collected pursuant to the "Penalty
 39 Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.) in
 40 a summary proceeding before the municipal court having
 41 jurisdiction. A law enforcement officer having enforcement
 42 authority in that municipality may issue a summons for a violation,
 43 and may serve and execute all process with respect to the
 44 enforcement of this subsection consistent with the Rules of Court.

45 p. A chief police officer or the superintendent may delegate to
 46 subordinate officers or employees of the law enforcement agency
 47 the responsibilities established pursuant to this section.

48 (cf: P.L.2022, c.58, s.1)

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1 3. N.J.S.2C:58-4 is amended to read as follows:

2 2C:58-4. a. Scope and duration of authority. Any person who
 3 holds a valid permit to carry a handgun issued pursuant to this
 4 section shall be authorized to carry a handgun in a holster concealed
 5 on their person in all parts of this State, except as prohibited by
 6 subsection e. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 and section 7 of P.L. , c. (C.)
 7 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). One permit shall be
 8 sufficient for all handguns owned by the holder thereof, but the
 9 permit shall apply only to a handgun carried by the actual and legal
 10 holder of the permit and, except as otherwise provided in subsection
 11 b. of section 6 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the
 12 Legislature as this bill), shall not be construed to authorize a holder
 13 to carry a handgun openly, provided that a brief, incidental
 14 exposure of a handgun while transferring it to or from a holster or
 15 due to the shifting of the person's body position or clothing shall be
 16 deemed a de minimis infraction within the contemplation of
 17 N.J.S.2C:2-11.

18 All permits to carry handguns shall expire two years from the
 19 date of issuance or, in the case of an employee of an armored car
 20 company, upon termination of his the employee's employment by
 21 the company occurring prior thereto whichever is earlier in time,
 22 and they may thereafter be renewed every two years in the same
 23 manner and subject to the same conditions as in the case of original
 24 applications.

25 b. Application forms. All applications for permits to carry
 26 handguns, and all applications for renewal of permits, shall be made
 27 on the forms and in the manner prescribed by the superintendent.
 28 Each application shall set forth the full name, date of birth, sex,
 29 residence, occupation, place of business or employment, any aliases
 30 or other names previously used by the applicant, and physical
 31 description of the applicant, and any other information the
 32 superintendent may prescribe for the determination of the
 33 applicant's eligibility for a permit and for the proper enforcement of
 34 this chapter. The application shall be signed by the applicant under
 35 oath, and shall be indorsed endorsed by three not less than four
 36 reputable persons who are not related by blood or by law to the
 37 applicant and have known the applicant for at least three years
 38 preceding the date of application, and who shall certify thereon that
 39 the applicant is a person of good moral character and behavior
 40 has not engaged in any acts or made any statements that suggest the
 41 applicant is likely to engage in conduct, other than lawful self-
 42 defense, that would pose a danger to the applicant or others. The
 43 reputable persons also shall provide relevant information supporting
 44 the certification, including the nature and extent of their
 45 relationship with the applicant and information concerning their
 46 knowledge of the applicant's use of drugs or alcohol.

47 c. Investigation and approval. Each application shall be
 48 accompanying by a \$200 application fee and shall in the first

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1 instance be submitted to the chief police officer of the municipality
 2 in which the applicant resides, or to the superintendent 【,】 if: (1)
 3 【if】 the applicant is an employee of an armored car company 【,
 4 or】 ; (2) 【if】 there is no chief police officer in the municipality

5 where the applicant resides 【, or】 ; (3) 【if】 the applicant does not
 6 reside in this State; or (4) the applicant is a mayor or other elected
 7 member of the municipal governing body.

8 In the case of an application made to the chief police officer of a
 9 municipality, \$150 of the fee shall be retained by the municipality
 10 and the remaining \$50 shall be forwarded to the superintendent.
 11 The fee amount retained by the municipality shall be used to defray
 12 the costs of investigation, administration, and processing of the
 13 permit to carry handgun applications. Application fees made to the
 14 superintendent shall be deposited into the Victims of Crime
 15 Compensation Office account.

16 The chief police officer, or the superintendent, as the case may
 17 be, shall determine whether the application is complete and, if so,
 18 shall cause the fingerprints of the applicant to be taken and
 19 compared with any and all records maintained by the municipality,
 20 the county in which it is located, the State Bureau of Identification
 21 and the Federal Bureau of Identification or; for an applicant who
 22 previously submitted fingerprints in order to apply for a firearms
 23 purchaser identification card or a permit to purchase a handgun in
 24 accordance with N.J.S.2C:58-3 or a permit to carry a handgun in
 25 accordance with this section, may solicit such other identification
 26 information as may be authorized by the superintendent for the
 27 conduct of a comparable criminal record check. 【He】 The chief
 28 police officer or the superintendent, as the case may be, shall also
 29 determine and record a complete description of each handgun the
 30 applicant intends to carry. The chief police officer, or the
 31 superintendent, as the case may be, shall interview the applicant and
 32 the persons endorsing the application under subsection b. of this
 33 section, and shall make inquiry concerning, and investigate to the
 34 extent warranted, whether the applicant is likely to engage in
 35 conduct that would result in harm to the applicant or others,
 36 including, but not limited to, whether the applicant has any history
 37 of threats or acts of violence by the applicant directed toward self or
 38 others or any history of use, attempted use, or threatened use of
 39 physical force by the applicant against another person, or other
 40 incidents implicating the disqualifying criteria set forth in
 41 subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3, including but not limited to
 42 determining whether the applicant has been subject to any recent
 43 arrests or criminal charges for disqualifying crimes or has been
 44 experiencing any mental health issues such as suicidal ideation or
 45 violent impulses, and the applicant's use of drugs or alcohol.

46 The chief police officer or the superintendent may require such
 47 other information from the applicant or any other person, including

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1 but not limited to publicly available statements posted or published
 2 online by the applicant, as the chief police officer or superintendent
 3 deems reasonably necessary to conduct the review of the
 4 application.

5 【No】 An application shall not be approved by the chief police
 6 officer or the superintendent unless the applicant demonstrates that
 7 【he】 the applicant is not subject to any of the disabilities set forth
 8 in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3, that 【he】 the applicant is
 9 thoroughly familiar with the safe handling and use of handguns,
 10 including providing proof of completion of any training or
 11 proficiency requirements established under the law, and that 【he
 12 has a justifiable need to carry a handgun】 the applicant is in
 13 compliance with the liability insurance requirement of section 4 of
 14 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill).

15 【Each application form shall be accompanied by a written

16 certification of justifiable need to carry a handgun, which shall be

17 under oath and, in the case of a private citizen, shall specify in

18 detail the urgent necessity for self-protection, as evidenced by

19 specific threats or previous attacks which demonstrate a special

20 danger to the applicant's life that cannot be avoided by means other

21 than by issuance of a permit to carry a handgun. Where possible,

22 the applicant shall corroborate the existence of any specific threats

23 or previous attacks by reference to reports of the incidents to the

24 appropriate law enforcement agencies.

25 If】 Once the application is 【not approved】 deemed complete by
 26 the chief police officer or the superintendent , if it is not approved
 27 or denied by the chief police officer or the superintendent within
 28 【60】 90 days of filing, it shall be deemed to have been approved
 29 【unless the applicant agrees】; provided, however, the chief police
 30 officer or the superintendent may, for good cause shown and upon
 31 written notification to the applicant, extend by up to an additional
 32 30 days the time period for which the application may be approved
 33 or denied. The written notification sent to the applicant shall
 34 provide a detailed explanation of the reasons for the extension. An
 35 applicant also may agree in writing to an additional extension of
 36 time 【in writing】 past the 120 day statutory time frame.

37 A chief police officer or the superintendent may delegate to
 38 subordinate officers or employees of the law enforcement agency
 39 the responsibilities established pursuant to this section.

40 d. Issuance 【by Superior Court; fee】 of permit; establishment
 41 of web portal; disposition of completed information. If the

42 application has been approved by the chief police officer or the

43 superintendent, as the case may be, the 【applicant shall forthwith

44 present it to the Superior Court of the county in which the applicant

45 resides, or to the Superior Court in any county where he intends to

46 carry a handgun, in the case of a nonresident or employee of an

47 armored car company. The court shall】 chief police officer or the

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1 superintendent shall issue the permit to the applicant in the form
 2 prescribed by the superintendent.

3 The permit shall be issued to the applicant electronically through
 4 electronic mail or through the web portal established or designated
 5 for this purpose by the superintendent, or in such form or manner as
 6 may be authorized by the superintendent, if, but only if, [it is
 7 satisfied] the chief police officer or superintendent determines that
 8 the applicant:

9 (1) [is a person of good character] has not engaged in any acts
 10 or made any statements that suggest the applicant is likely to
 11 engage in conduct, other than lawful self-defense, that would pose a
 12 danger to the applicant or others and [who] is not subject to any of
 13 the disabilities set forth in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3 [t, that he
 14 is] :

15 (2) is thoroughly familiar with the safe handling and use of
 16 handguns [,] ; [and that he has a justifiable need to carry a
 17 handgun in accordance with the provisions of subsection c. of this
 18 section. The court may at its discretion issue a limited-type permit
 19 which would restrict the applicant as to the types of handguns he
 20 may carry and where and for what purposes the handguns may be
 21 carried]

22 (3) has completed the training requirements established pursuant
 23 to subsection g. of this section, provided that any requirement for
 24 classroom instruction and target training shall not be required for a
 25 renewal applicant who completed the instruction and training when
 26 obtaining a permit to carry a handgun issued within the previous
 27 two years; and

28 (4) is in compliance with the liability insurance requirement of
 29 section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this
 30 bill).

31 [At the time of issuance, the applicant shall pay to the county
 32 clerk of the county where the permit was issued a permit fee of
 33 \$20.]

34 The provisions of this section requiring the issuance of a permit to
 35 carry a handgun utilizing the web portal established pursuant to this
 36 subsection and requiring the superintendent or chief police officer to
 37 determine that an applicant has completed the training requirement
 38 pursuant to subsection c. of this section and paragraph (3) of this
 39 subsection and is in compliance with the liability insurance
 40 requirements pursuant to subsection c. of this section and paragraph
 41 (4) of this subsection shall remain inoperative until the first day of the
 42 seventh month next following the date of enactment of P.L. ,
 43 c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill).

44 e. Appeals from denial of applications. An applicant who is
 45 denied a permit to carry a handgun shall be provided with a written
 46 statement of the reasons for the denial. Any [person] applicant
 47 aggrieved by the denial by the chief police officer or the

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1 superintendent of approval for a permit to carry a handgun may
 2 request a hearing in the Superior Court of the county in which he the applicant
 3 resides or in any county in which he the applicant
 4 intends to carry a handgun, in the case of a nonresident, by filing a
 5 written request for a hearing within 30 days of the denial. Copies
 6 The aggrieved applicant shall serve copies of the request shall be
 7 served upon the superintendent, the county prosecutor, and the
 8 chief police officer of the municipality where the applicant resides,
 9 if he the applicant is a resident of this State. The hearing shall be
 10 held within 30 60 days of the filing of the request, and no formal
 11 pleading or filing fee shall be required. Appeals from the
 12 determination at the hearing shall be in accordance with law and the
 13 rules governing the courts of this State.

14 If the superintendent or chief police officer approves an
 15 application and the Superior Court denies the application and
 16 refuses to issue a permit, the applicant may appeal the denial in
 17 accordance with law and the rules governing the courts of this
 18 State.

19 The Administrative Director of the Courts shall coordinate with
 20 the superintendent in the development of an electronic filing system
 21 to receive requests for hearings and serve the chief police officer
 22 and superintendent as required in this section.

23 f. Revocation of permits. Any permit issued under this section
 24 shall be void at the time the holder thereof becomes subject to any
 25 of the disabilities set forth in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3, and
 26 the holder of a void permit shall immediately surrender the permit
 27 to the superintendent who shall give notice to the licensing
 28 authority. Any permit may be revoked by the Superior Court, after
 29 hearing upon notice to the holder, if the court finds that the holder
 30 is no longer qualified for the issuance of a permit. The county
 31 prosecutor of any county, the chief police officer of any
 32 municipality, the superintendent, or any citizen may apply to the
 33 court at any time for the revocation of any permit issued pursuant to
 34 this section.

35 g. Training requirement. (1) On or prior to the first day of the
 36 seventh month following the enactment of P.L. , c. (C.)
 37 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the superintendent shall
 38 establish training requirements in the lawful and safe handling and
 39 storage of firearms, which shall consist of an online course of
 40 instruction, in-person classroom instruction, and target training
 41 administered by a certified firearm instructor on a firing range
 42 approved by the superintendent and on the list of approved ranges
 43 published on the State Police website. The training shall include, but
 44 not be limited to, demonstration of a level of proficiency in the use of
 45 a handgun in such manner as required by the superintendent and
 46 training, developed or approved in conjunction with the Police

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1 Training Commission, on justification in the use of deadly force
 2 under State law.

3 (2) A person who obtained a permit pursuant to this section prior to
 4 the first day of the seventh month following the date of enactment
 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and
 6 which permit is not scheduled to expire until at least one year
 7 following the enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
 8 Legislature as this bill) shall comply with the training requirement
 9 established pursuant to this subsection no later than the first day of
 10 the tenth month following the date of enactment of P.L. ,
 11 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

12 h. For purposes of this section, “holster” means a device or
 13 sheath that securely retains a handgun which, at a minimum,
 14 conceals and protects the main body of the firearm, maintains the
 15 firearm in a consistent and accessible position, and renders the
 16 trigger covered and inaccessible while the handgun is fully seated in
 17 the holster.

18 (cf: P.L.2018, c.37, s.1)

19

20 4. (New section) a. Every private citizen who carries a
 21 handgun in public in this State shall maintain liability insurance
 22 coverage insuring against loss resulting from liability imposed by
 23 law for bodily injury, death, and property damage sustained by any
 24 person arising out of the ownership, maintenance, operation or use
 25 of a firearm carried in public wherein such coverage shall be at least
 26 in an amount or limit of \$300,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
 27 on account of injury to or death of more than one person and for
 28 damage to property, in any one incident.

29 b. Proof of liability insurance, as required pursuant to
 30 subsection a. of this section, shall be produced by the person
 31 carrying a handgun in public, within a reasonable amount of time
 32 following any injury, death, or property damage alleged to have
 33 been caused by the person carrying the handgun in public. This
 34 requirement shall be satisfied by delivering a full and complete
 35 copy of the applicable policy or policies of insurance that meet the
 36 standards established by subsection a. of this section and that were
 37 in force at the time of the injury, death, or property damage.

38 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, disclosure of
 39 policy information under this section shall not constitute an
 40 admission that the alleged injury, death, or property damage is
 41 subject to the policy.

42 Information concerning the insurance policy shall not be
 43 admissible as evidence at trial by reason of disclosure pursuant to
 44 this subsection. The disclosure shall be confidential and available
 45 only to the injured person, representative of the decedent, or owner
 46 of damaged property and the attorney representing the injured
 47 person, representative of the decedent, or owner of damaged
 48 property and personnel in the office of the attorney.

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1 c. A violation of this section shall be a crime of the fourth
2 degree and shall constitute full and sufficient grounds for
3 revocation of a permit to carry a handgun issued pursuant to
4 N.J.S.2C:58-4.

5

6 5. (New section) Safe carry requirements for authorized
7 holders of a permit to carry a handgun.

8 a. The holder of a permit to carry a handgun issued pursuant to
9 N.J.S.2C:58-4 shall not:

10 (1) use or consume alcohol, a cannabis item, or a controlled
11 substance while carrying a handgun;

12 (2) be under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, or a controlled
13 substance while carrying a handgun;

14 (3) carry a handgun in public outside of a holster or carry a
15 handgun in public in a holster that does not meet the requirements
16 of subsection h. of N.J.S.2C:58-4;

17 (4) carry more than two firearms under the permittee's control at
18 one time; or

19 (5) engage in an unjustified display of a handgun.

20 A violation of this subsection shall be a crime of the fourth
21 degree, and any such violation shall constitute full and sufficient
22 grounds for revocation of a permit to carry a handgun issued
23 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:58-4.

24 b. The holder of a permit to carry a handgun issued pursuant to
25 N.J.S.2C:58-4, if stopped or detained by a law enforcement officer
26 while carrying a handgun in public or traveling with a handgun in a
27 motor vehicle, shall:

28 (1) immediately disclose to the law enforcement officer that they
29 are carrying a handgun or that a handgun is stored in the vehicle;
30 and

31 (2) display the permit to carry a handgun issued pursuant to
32 N.J.S.2C:58-4.

33 A violation of paragraph (1) of this section shall be a crime of
34 the fourth degree. A person who violates paragraph (2) of this
35 subsection shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense for a first
36 offense and subject to a \$100 fine and a crime of the fourth degree
37 for a second or subsequent offense.

38 c. A holder of a permit to carry a handgun issued pursuant to
39 N.J.S.2C:58-4 who is carrying a handgun in public and is detained
40 by a law enforcement officer as part of a criminal investigation
41 shall provide the handgun to the law enforcement officer upon
42 request for purposes of inspecting the handgun. The provisions of
43 this subsection shall not be construed to affect or otherwise limit the
44 authority of a law enforcement officer to conduct a lawful search or
45 seizure.

46 A violation of this subsection shall be a crime of the fourth
47 degree.

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1 6. (New section) Requirements and restrictions on the lawful
2 carrying of a handgun in public.

3 Except as permitted pursuant to N.J.S.2C:39-6, in addition to any
4 criminal penalties under subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:39-5, sections 5
5 and 7 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this
6 bill), or any other law, it shall be a crime of the fourth degree for
7 any person in a public place:

8 a. to carry a handgun concealed on or about their person,
9 except as permitted in accordance with N.J.S.2C:39-6, without
10 possessing on their person a valid and lawfully issued permit to
11 carry under N.J.S.2C:58-4 and proof of the liability insurance
12 required pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before
13 the Legislature as this bill); or

14 b. to carry a handgun openly, whether or not in possession of a
15 valid and lawfully issued permit to carry under N.J.S.2C:58-4 and
16 proof of the liability insurance required pursuant to section 4 of
17 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill).

18

19 7. (New section) Places where the carrying of a firearm or
20 destructive device is prohibited.

21 a. Except as otherwise provided in this section and in the case
22 of a brief, incidental entry onto property, which shall be deemed a
23 de minimis infraction within the contemplation of N.J.S.2C:2-11, it
24 shall be a crime of the third degree for any person, other than a
25 person lawfully carrying a firearm within the authorized scope of an
26 exemption set forth in N.J.S.2C:39-6, to knowingly carry a firearm as
27 defined in subsection f. of N.J.S.2C:39-1 and a crime of the second
28 degree to knowingly possess a destructive device as defined in
29 subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:39-1 in any of the following places,
30 including in or upon any part of the buildings, grounds, or parking
31 area of:

32 (1) a place owned, leased, or under the control of State, county
33 or municipal government used for the purpose of government
34 administration, including but not limited to police stations;

35 (2) a courthouse, courtroom, or any other premises used to
36 conduct judicial or court administrative proceedings or functions;

37 (3) a State, county, or municipal correctional or juvenile justice
38 facility, jail and any other place maintained by or for a
39 governmental entity for the detention of criminal suspects or
40 offenders;

41 (4) a State-contracted half-way house;

42 (5) a location being used as a polling place during the conduct of
43 an election and places used for the storage or tabulation of ballots;

44 (6) within 100 feet of a place where a public gathering,
45 demonstration or event is held for which a government permit is
46 required, during the conduct of such gathering, demonstration or
47 event;

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1 (7) a school, college, university or other educational institution,
2 and on any school bus;

3 (8) a child care facility, including a day care center;

4 (9) a nursery school, pre-school, zoo, or summer camp;

5 (10) a park, beach, recreation facility or area or playground
6 owned or controlled by a State, county or local government unit, or
7 any part of such a place, which is designated as a gun free zone by
8 the governing authority based on considerations of public safety;

9 (11) youth sports events, as defined in N.J.S.5:17-1, during and
10 immediately preceding and following the conduct of the event,
11 except that this provision shall not apply to participants of a youth
12 sports event which is a firearm shooting competition to which
13 paragraph (3) of subsection b. of section 14 of P.L.1979, c.179
14 (C.2C:58-6.1) applies;

15 (12) a publicly owned or leased library or museum;

16 (13) a shelter for the homeless, emergency shelter for the
17 homeless, basic center shelter program, shelter for homeless or
18 runaway youth, children's shelter, child care shelter, shelter for
19 victims of domestic violence, or any shelter licensed by or under the
20 control of the Juvenile Justice Commission or the Department of
21 Children and Families;

22 (14) a community residence for persons with developmental
23 disabilities, head injuries, or terminal illnesses, or any other
24 residential setting licensed by the Department of Human Services or
25 Department of Health;

26 (15) a bar or restaurant where alcohol is served, and any other
27 site or facility where alcohol is sold for consumption on the
28 premises;

29 (16) a Class 5 Cannabis retailer or medical cannabis dispensary,
30 including any consumption areas licensed or permitted by the
31 Cannabis Regulatory Commission established pursuant to section
32 31 of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-24);

33 (17) a privately or publicly owned and operated entertainment
34 facility within this State, including but not limited to a theater,
35 stadium, museum, arena, racetrack or other place where
36 performances, concerts, exhibits, games or contests are held;

37 (18) a casino and related facilities, including but not limited to
38 appurtenant hotels, retail premises, restaurant and bar facilities, and
39 entertainment and recreational venues located within the casino
40 property;

41 (19) a plant or operation that produces, converts, distributes or
42 stores energy or converts one form of energy to another;

43 (20) an airport or public transportation hub;

44 (21) a health care facility, including but not limited to a general
45 hospital, special hospital, psychiatric hospital, public health center,
46 diagnostic center, treatment center, rehabilitation center, extended
47 care facility, skilled nursing home, nursing home, intermediate care
48 facility, tuberculosis hospital, chronic disease hospital, maternity

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1 hospital, outpatient clinic, dispensary, assisted living center, home
2 health care agency, residential treatment facility, residential health
3 care facility, medical office, or ambulatory care facility;

4 (22) a facility licensed or regulated by the Department of Human
5 Services, Department of Children and Families, or Department of
6 Health, other than a health care facility, that provides addiction or
7 mental health treatment or support services;

8 (23) a public location being used for making motion picture or
9 television images for theatrical, commercial or educational
10 purposes, during the time such location is being used for that
11 purpose;

12 (24) private property, including but not limited to residential,
13 commercial, industrial, agricultural, institutional or undeveloped
14 property, unless the owner has provided express consent or has
15 posted a sign indicating that it is permissible to carry on the
16 premises a concealed handgun with a valid and lawfully issued
17 permit under N.J.S.2C:58-4, provided that nothing in this paragraph
18 shall be construed to affect the authority to keep or carry a firearm
19 established under subsection e. of N.J.S.2C:39-6; and

20 (25) any other place in which the carrying of a firearm is
21 prohibited by statute or rule or regulation promulgated by a federal
22 or State agency.

23 b. (1) A person, other than a person lawfully carrying a firearm
24 within the authorized scope of an exemption set forth in subsection
25 a., c., or l. of N.J.S.2C:39-6, who is otherwise authorized under the
26 law to carry or transport a firearm shall not do so while in a vehicle
27 in New Jersey, unless the handgun is unloaded and contained in a
28 closed and securely fastened case, gunbox, or locked unloaded in
29 the trunk of the vehicle.

30 (2) A holder of a valid and lawfully issued permit to carry a
31 handgun shall not leave a handgun outside of their immediate
32 possession or control within a parked vehicle, unless the handgun is
33 unloaded and contained in a closed and securely fastened case, or
34 gunbox, and is not visible from outside of the vehicle, or is locked
35 unloaded in the trunk or storage area of the vehicle.

36 A violation of paragraph (1) or (2) of this subsection is a crime
37 of the fourth degree.

38 c. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections a. and b. of
39 this section, the holder of a valid and lawfully issued permit to carry
40 under N.J.S.2C:58-4 who is otherwise prohibited under this section
41 from carrying a concealed firearm into the parking area of a
42 prohibited location specified in subsection a. of this section shall be
43 permitted to:

44 (1) transport a concealed handgun or ammunition within a
45 vehicle into or out of the parking area, provided that the handgun is
46 unloaded and contained in a closed and securely fastened case,
47 gunbox, or locked unloaded in the trunk or storage area of the
48 vehicle;

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1 (2) store a handgun or ammunition within a locked lock box and
2 out of plain view within the vehicle in the parking area;

3 (3) transport a concealed handgun in the immediate area
4 surrounding their vehicle within a prohibited parking lot area only
5 for the limited purpose of storing or retrieving the handgun within a
6 locked lock box in the vehicle's trunk or other place inside the
7 vehicle that is out of plain view; and

8 (4) transport a concealed handgun between a vehicle parked
9 within a prohibited parking lot area and a place other than a
10 prohibited place enumerated in subsection a. of this section,
11 provided that the person immediately leaves the parking lot area
12 and does not enter into or on the grounds of the prohibited place
13 with the handgun.

14 d. The holder of a valid and lawfully issued permit to carry
15 under N.J.S.2C:58-4 shall not be in violation of subsection a. of this
16 section while the holder is traveling along a public right-of-way that
17 touches or crosses any of the places enumerated in subsection a. of
18 this section if the concealed handgun is carried on their person in
19 accordance with the provisions of this act or is being transported in
20 a vehicle by the permit holder in accordance with all other
21 applicable provisions of law.

22 e. (1) Nothing in this act shall be construed to prohibit the
23 holder of a valid and lawfully issued permit under N.J.S.2C:58-4
24 who is lawfully authorized to provide security at a place
25 enumerated in subsection a. of this section from carrying a firearm,
26 openly or concealed, provided that the authorization is set forth in
27 writing, and only to the extent permitted by the entity responsible
28 for security at the place in question.

29 (2) Unless otherwise required or prohibited by law, the owner or
30 entity in control of any place enumerated in subsection a. of this
31 section or owner or entity responsible for providing security may
32 allow or prohibit retired law enforcement officers who are
33 authorized to possess and carry a handgun pursuant to subsection l.
34 of N.J.S.2C:39-6 or qualified retired law enforcement officers
35 within the meaning of the federal "Law Enforcement Officers
36 Safety Act of 2004," Pub.L. 108-277 to carry a concealed handgun
37 on the premises of such place.

38 f. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an
39 employee of an armored car company who is the holder of a valid
40 and lawfully issued permit to carry a handgun issued pursuant to
41 N.J.S.2C:58-4 who is contractually authorized to provide services
42 for a client at a place enumerated in subsection a. of this section
43 from carrying a firearm, openly, in the regular course of
44 employment.

45 g. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the carrying or
46 transporting of a firearm in accordance with subsections e. and f. of
47 N.J.S.2C:39-6 or where it is otherwise expressly authorized by law.

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1 8. N.J.S.2C:39-6 is amended to read as follows:

2 2C:39-6. a. Provided a person complies with the requirements
3 of subsection j. of this section, N.J.S.2C:39-5 does not apply to:

4 (1) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the
5 National Guard while actually on duty, or while traveling between
6 places of duty and carrying authorized weapons in the manner
7 prescribed by the appropriate military authorities;

8 (2) Federal law enforcement officers, and any other federal
9 officers and employees required to carry firearms in the
10 performance of their official duties;

11 (3) Members of the State Police and, under conditions
12 prescribed by the superintendent, members of the Marine Law
13 Enforcement Bureau of the Division of State Police;

14 (4) A sheriff, undersheriff, sheriff's officer, ~~county prosecutor~~,
15 assistant prosecutor, ~~prosecutor's~~ detective or investigator, ~~deputy~~
16 attorney general or ~~State investigator~~ employed by the Division of
17 Criminal Justice of the Department of Law and Public Safety,
18 investigator employed by the State Commission of Investigation,
19 inspector of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Enforcement Bureau of
20 the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public
21 Safety authorized to carry weapons by the Superintendent of State
22 Police, State park police officer, or State conservation police
23 officer;

24 (5) Except as hereinafter provided, a State correctional police
25 officer, or a prison or jail warden of any penal institution in this
26 State or the warden's deputies, or an employee of the Department of
27 Corrections engaged in the interstate transportation of convicted
28 offenders, while in the performance of the employee's duties, and
29 when required to possess the weapon by a superior officer, or a
30 correctional police officer or keeper of a penal institution in this
31 State at all times while in the State of New Jersey, provided the
32 person annually passes an examination approved by the
33 superintendent testing the person's proficiency in the handling of
34 firearms;

35 (6) A civilian employee of the United States Government under
36 the supervision of the commanding officer of any post, camp,
37 station, base or other military or naval installation located in this
38 State who is required, in the performance of the employee's official
39 duties, to carry firearms, and who is authorized to carry firearms by
40 the commanding officer, while in the actual performance of the
41 employee's official duties;

42 (7) (a) A regularly employed member, including a detective, of
43 the police department of any county or municipality, or of any
44 State, interstate, municipal or county park police force or boulevard
45 police force, at all times while in the State of New Jersey;

46 (b) A special law enforcement officer authorized to carry a
47 weapon as provided in subsection b. of section 7 of P.L.1985, c.439
48 (C.40A:14-146.14);

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1 (c) An airport security officer or a special law enforcement
2 officer appointed by the governing body of any county or
3 municipality, except as provided in subparagraph (b) of this
4 paragraph, or by the commission, board or other body having
5 control of a county park or airport or boulevard police force, while
6 engaged in the actual performance of the officer's official duties and
7 when specifically authorized by the governing body to carry
8 weapons;

9 (8) A full-time, paid member of a paid or part-paid fire
10 department or force of any municipality who is assigned full-time
11 or part-time to an arson investigation unit created pursuant to
12 section 1 of P.L.1981, c.409 (C.40A:14-7.1) or to the county arson
13 investigation unit in the county prosecutor's office, while either
14 engaged in the actual performance of arson investigation duties or
15 while actually on call to perform arson investigation duties and
16 when specifically authorized by the governing body or the county
17 prosecutor, as the case may be, to carry weapons. Prior to being
18 permitted to carry a firearm, a member shall take and successfully
19 complete a firearms training course administered by the Police
20 Training Commission pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et
21 seq.), and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar
22 weapon prior to being permitted to carry a firearm;

23 (9) A juvenile correctional police officer in the employment of
24 the Juvenile Justice Commission established pursuant to section 2
25 of P.L.1995, c.284 (C.52:17B-170) subject to the regulations
26 promulgated by the commission;

27 (10) A designated employee or designated licensed agent for a
28 nuclear power plant under license of the Nuclear Regulatory
29 Commission, while in the actual performance of the person's
30 official duties, if the federal licensee certifies that the designated
31 employee or designated licensed agent is assigned to perform site
32 protection, guard, armed response or armed escort duties and is
33 appropriately trained and qualified, as prescribed by federal
34 regulation, to perform those duties. Any firearm utilized by an
35 employee or agent for a nuclear power plant pursuant to this
36 paragraph shall be returned each day at the end of the employee's or
37 agent's authorized official duties to the employee's or agent's
38 supervisor. All firearms returned each day pursuant to this
39 paragraph shall be stored in locked containers located in a secure
40 area;

41 (11) A county correctional police officer at all times while in the
42 State of New Jersey, provided the officer annually passes an
43 examination approved by the superintendent testing the officer's
44 proficiency in the handling of firearms;

45 (12) A county prosecutor, assistant prosecutor, federal
46 prosecutor, municipal prosecutor, Attorney General, assistant
47 attorney general, deputy attorney general and federal, State, county,
48 or municipal court judge, including a judge of the Tax Court and

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1 any other court of limited jurisdiction established, altered, or
2 abolished by law, a judge of the Office of Administrative Law, a
3 judge of the Division of Workers' Compensation at all times while
4 in this State. Prior to being permitted to carry a firearm, a person
5 subject to this paragraph shall take and successfully complete a
6 firearms training course administered by the Police Training
7 Commission pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.), and
8 shall annually qualify in the use of a handgun or similar weapon
9 prior to being permitted to carry a firearm. The superintendent may
10 issue identification cards indicating that such a person is permitted
11 to carry a handgun pursuant to this paragraph.

12 b. Subsections a., b. and c. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to:

13 (1) A law enforcement officer employed by a governmental
14 agency outside of the State of New Jersey while actually engaged in
15 the officer's official duties, provided, however, that the officer has
16 first notified the superintendent or the chief law enforcement officer
17 of the municipality or the prosecutor of the county in which the
18 officer is engaged; or

19 (2) A licensed dealer in firearms and the dealer's registered
20 employees during the course of their normal business while
21 traveling to and from their place of business and other places for the
22 purpose of demonstration, exhibition or delivery in connection with
23 a sale, provided, however, that the weapon is carried in the manner
24 specified in subsection g. of this section.

25 c. Provided a person complies with the requirements of
26 subsection j. of this section, subsections b. and c. of N.J.S.2C:39-5
27 do not apply to:

28 (1) A special agent of the Division of Taxation who has passed
29 an examination in an approved police training program testing
30 proficiency in the handling of any firearm which the agent may be
31 required to carry, while in the actual performance of the agent's
32 official duties and while going to or from the agent's place of duty,
33 or any other police officer, while in the actual performance of the
34 officer's official duties;

35 (2) A State deputy conservation police officer or a full-time
36 employee of the Division of Parks and Forestry having the power of
37 arrest and authorized to carry weapons, while in the actual
38 performance of the officer's official duties;

39 (3) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1986, c.150.)

40 (4) A court attendant appointed by the sheriff of the county or
41 by the judge of any municipal court or other court of this State,
42 while in the actual performance of the attendant's official duties;

43 (5) A guard employed by any railway express company, banking
44 or building and loan or savings and loan institution of this State,
45 while in the actual performance of the guard's official duties;

46 (6) A member of a legally recognized military organization
47 while actually under orders or while going to or from the prescribed

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1 place of meeting and carrying the weapons prescribed for drill,
2 exercise or parade;

3 (7) A municipal humane law enforcement officer, authorized
4 pursuant to subsection d. of section 25 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-
5 14.1), or humane law enforcement officer of a county society for
6 the prevention of cruelty to animals authorized pursuant to
7 subsection c. of section 29 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.5), while
8 in the actual performance of the officer's duties;

9 (8) An employee of a public utilities corporation actually
10 engaged in the transportation of explosives;

11 (9) A railway policeman, except a transit police officer of the
12 New Jersey Transit Police Department, at all times while in the
13 State of New Jersey, provided that the person has passed an
14 approved police academy training program consisting of at least
15 280 hours. The training program shall include, but need not be
16 limited to, the handling of firearms, community relations, and
17 juvenile relations;

18 (10) A campus police officer appointed under P.L.1970, c.211
19 (C.18A:6-4.2 et seq.) at all times. Prior to being permitted to carry
20 a firearm, a campus police officer shall take and successfully
21 complete a firearms training course administered by the Police
22 Training Commission, pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et
23 seq.), and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar
24 weapon prior to being permitted to carry a firearm;

25 (11) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2003, c.168).

26 (12) A transit police officer of the New Jersey Transit Police
27 Department, at all times while in the State of New Jersey, provided
28 the officer has satisfied the training requirements of the Police
29 Training Commission, pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of
30 P.L.1989, c.291 (C.27:25-15.1);

31 (13) A parole officer employed by the State Parole Board at all
32 times. Prior to being permitted to carry a firearm, a parole officer
33 shall take and successfully complete a basic course for regular
34 police officer training administered by the Police Training
35 Commission, pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.), and
36 shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar weapon
37 prior to being permitted to carry a firearm;

38 (14) A Human Services police officer at all times while in the
39 State of New Jersey, as authorized by the Commissioner of Human
40 Services;

41 (15) A person or employee of any person who, pursuant to and as
42 required by a contract with a governmental entity, supervises or
43 transports persons charged with or convicted of an offense;

44 (16) A housing authority police officer appointed under
45 P.L.1997, c.210 (C.40A:14-146.19 et al.) at all times while in the
46 State of New Jersey; or

47 (17) A probation officer assigned to the "Probation Officer
48 Community Safety Unit" created by section 2 of P.L.2001, c.362

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1 (C.2B:10A-2) while in the actual performance of the probation
2 officer's official duties. Prior to being permitted to carry a firearm,
3 a probation officer shall take and successfully complete a basic
4 course for regular police officer training administered by the Police
5 Training Commission, pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et
6 seq.), and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar
7 weapon prior to being permitted to carry a firearm.

8 d. (1) Subsections c. and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to
9 antique firearms, provided that the antique firearms are unloaded or
10 are being fired for the purposes of exhibition or demonstration at an
11 authorized target range or in another manner approved in writing by
12 the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality in which the
13 exhibition or demonstration is held, or if not held on property under
14 the control of a particular municipality, the superintendent.

15 (2) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of
16 N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to an antique cannon that is capable of
17 being fired but that is unloaded and immobile, provided that the
18 antique cannon is possessed by (a) a scholastic institution, a
19 museum, a municipality, a county or the State, or (b) a person who
20 obtained a firearms purchaser identification card as specified in
21 N.J.S.2C:58-3.

22 (3) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of
23 N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to an unloaded antique cannon that is
24 being transported by one eligible to possess it, in compliance with
25 regulations the superintendent may promulgate, between its
26 permanent location and place of purchase or repair.

27 (4) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of
28 N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to antique cannons that are being loaded
29 or fired by one eligible to possess an antique cannon, for purposes
30 of exhibition or demonstration at an authorized target range or in
31 the manner as has been approved in writing by the chief law
32 enforcement officer of the municipality in which the exhibition or
33 demonstration is held, or if not held on property under the control
34 of a particular municipality, the superintendent, provided that
35 performer has given at least 30 days' notice to the superintendent.

36 (5) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of
37 N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to the transportation of unloaded
38 antique cannons directly to or from exhibitions or demonstrations
39 authorized under paragraph (4) of subsection d. of this section,
40 provided that the transportation is in compliance with safety
41 regulations the superintendent may promulgate. Those subsections
42 shall not apply to transportation directly to or from exhibitions or
43 demonstrations authorized under the law of another jurisdiction,
44 provided that the superintendent has been given 30 days' notice and
45 that the transportation is in compliance with safety regulations the
46 superintendent may promulgate.

47 e. Nothing in subsections b., c., and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall
48 be construed to prevent a person keeping or carrying about the

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1 person's place of business, residence, premises or other land owned
2 or possessed by the person, any firearm, or from carrying the same,
3 in the manner specified in subsection g. of this section, from any
4 place of purchase to the person's residence or place of business,
5 between the person's dwelling and place of business, between one
6 place of business or residence and another when moving, or
7 between the person's dwelling or place of business and place where
8 the firearms are repaired, for the purpose of repair. For the
9 purposes of this section, a place of business shall be deemed to be a
10 fixed location.

11 f. Nothing in subsections b., c., and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall
12 be construed to prevent:

13 (1) A member of any rifle or pistol club organized in accordance
14 with the rules prescribed by the National Board for the Promotion
15 of Rifle Practice, in going to or from a place of target practice,
16 carrying firearms necessary for target practice, provided that the
17 club has filed a copy of its charter with the superintendent and
18 annually submits a list of its members to the superintendent and
19 provided further that the firearms are carried in the manner
20 specified in subsection g. of this section;

21 (2) A person carrying a firearm or knife in the woods or fields
22 or upon the waters of this State for the purpose of hunting, target
23 practice or fishing, provided that the firearm or knife is legal and
24 appropriate for hunting or fishing purposes in this State and the
25 person has in his the person's possession a valid hunting license,
26 or, with respect to fresh water fishing, a valid fishing license;

27 (3) A person transporting any firearm or knife while traveling:

28 (a) Directly to or from any place for the purpose of hunting or
29 fishing, provided the person has in the person's possession a valid
30 hunting or fishing license; or

31 (b) Directly to or from any target range, or other authorized
32 place for the purpose of practice, match, target, trap or skeet
33 shooting exhibitions, provided in all cases that during the course of
34 the travel all firearms are carried in the manner specified in
35 subsection g. of this section and the person has complied with all
36 the provisions and requirements of Title 23 of the Revised Statutes
37 and any amendments thereto and all rules and regulations
38 promulgated thereunder; or

39 (c) In the case of a firearm, directly to or from any exhibition or
40 display of firearms which is sponsored by any law enforcement
41 agency, any rifle or pistol club, or any firearms collectors club, for
42 the purpose of displaying the firearms to the public or to the
43 members of the organization or club, provided, however, that not
44 less than 30 days prior to the exhibition or display, notice of the
45 exhibition or display shall be given to the Superintendent of the
46 State Police by the sponsoring organization or club, and the sponsor
47 has complied with any reasonable safety regulations the
48 superintendent may promulgate. Any firearms transported pursuant

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1 to this section shall be transported in the manner specified in
2 subsection g. of this section;

3 (4) A person from keeping or carrying about a private or
4 commercial aircraft or any boat, or from transporting to or from the
5 aircraft or boat for the purpose of installation or repair of a visual
6 distress signaling device approved by the United States Coast
7 Guard.

8 g. Any weapon being transported under paragraph (2) of
9 subsection b., subsection e., or paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection f.
10 of this section shall be carried unloaded and contained in a closed
11 and fastened case, gunbox, securely tied package, or locked in the
12 trunk of the automobile in which it is being transported, and in the
13 course of travel shall include only deviations as are reasonably
14 necessary under the circumstances.

15 h. Nothing in subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed
16 to prevent any employee of a public utility, as defined in R.S.48:2-
17 13, doing business in this State or any United States Postal Service
18 employee, while in the actual performance of duties which
19 specifically require regular and frequent visits to private premises,
20 from possessing, carrying or using any device which projects,
21 releases or emits any substance specified as being noninjurious to
22 canines or other animals by the Commissioner of Health and which
23 immobilizes only on a temporary basis and produces only
24 temporary physical discomfort through being vaporized or
25 otherwise dispensed in the air for the sole purpose of repelling
26 canine or other animal attacks.

27 The device shall be used solely to repel only those canine or
28 other animal attacks when the canines or other animals are not
29 restrained in a fashion sufficient to allow the employee to properly
30 perform the employee's duties.

31 Any device used pursuant to this act shall be selected from a list
32 of products, which consist of active and inert ingredients, permitted
33 by the Commissioner of Health.

34 i. (1) Nothing in N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent
35 any person who is 18 years of age or older and who has not been
36 convicted of a crime, from possession for the purpose of personal
37 self-defense of one pocket-sized device which contains and releases
38 not more than three-quarters of an ounce of chemical substance not
39 ordinarily capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury,
40 but rather, is intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or
41 disability through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air.
42 Any person in possession of any device in violation of this
43 subsection shall be deemed and adjudged to be a disorderly person,
44 and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less
45 than \$100.

46 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this
47 subsection, nothing in N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent a
48 health inspector or investigator operating pursuant to the provisions

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1 of section 7 of P.L.1977, c.443 (C.26:3A2-25) or a building
2 inspector from possessing a device which is capable of releasing
3 more than three-quarters of an ounce of a chemical substance, as
4 described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, while in the actual
5 performance of the inspector's or investigator's duties, provided that
6 the device does not exceed the size of those used by law
7 enforcement.

8 j. A person shall qualify for an exemption from the provisions
9 of N.J.S.2C:39-5, as specified under subsections a. and c. of this
10 section, if the person has satisfactorily completed a firearms
11 training course approved by the Police Training Commission.

12 The exempt person shall not possess or carry a firearm until the
13 person has satisfactorily completed a firearms training course and
14 shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar weapon.
15 For purposes of this subsection, a "firearms training course" means
16 a course of instruction in the safe use, maintenance and storage of
17 firearms which is approved by the Police Training Commission.
18 The commission shall approve a firearms training course if the
19 requirements of the course are substantially equivalent to the
20 requirements for firearms training provided by police training
21 courses which are certified under section 6 of P.L.1961, c.56
22 (C.52:17B-71). A person who is specified in paragraph (1), (2), (3),
23 or (6) of subsection a. of this section shall be exempt from the
24 requirements of this subsection.

25 k. Nothing in subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed
26 to prevent any financial institution, or any duly authorized
27 personnel of the institution, from possessing, carrying or using for
28 the protection of money or property, any device which projects,
29 releases or emits tear gas or other substances intended to produce
30 temporary physical discomfort or temporary identification.

31 1. Nothing in subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed
32 to prevent a law enforcement officer who retired in good standing,
33 including a retirement because of a disability pursuant to section 6
34 of P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-6), section 7 of P.L.1944, c.255
35 (C.43:16A-7), section 1 of P.L.1989, c.103 (C.43:16A-6.1), or any
36 substantially similar statute governing the disability retirement of
37 federal law enforcement officers, provided the officer was a
38 regularly employed, full-time law enforcement officer for an
39 aggregate of four or more years prior to the officer's disability
40 retirement and further provided that the disability which constituted
41 the basis for the officer's retirement did not involve a certification
42 that the officer was mentally incapacitated for the performance of
43 the officer's usual law enforcement duties and any other available
44 duty in the department which the officer's employer was willing to
45 assign to the officer or does not subject that retired officer to any of
46 the disabilities set forth in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3 which
47 would disqualify the retired officer from possessing or carrying a
48 firearm, who semi-annually qualifies in the use of the handgun the

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1 officer is permitted to carry in accordance with the requirements
 2 and procedures established by the Attorney General pursuant to
 3 subsection j. of this section and pays the actual costs associated
 4 with those semi-annual qualifications, who is 75 years of age or
 5 younger, and who was regularly employed as a full-time member of
 6 the State Police; a full-time member of an interstate police force; a
 7 full-time member of a county or municipal police department in this
 8 State; a full-time member of a State law enforcement agency; a full-
 9 time sheriff, undersheriff or sheriff's officer of a county of this
 10 State; a full-time State or county correctional police officer; a full-
 11 time State correctional police officer or county correctional police
 12 officer; a full-time State or county park police officer; a full-time
 13 special agent of the Division of Taxation; a full-time Human
 14 Services police officer; a full-time transit police officer of the New
 15 Jersey Transit Police Department; a full-time campus police officer
 16 exempted pursuant to paragraph (10) of subsection c. of this
 17 section; a full-time State conservation police officer exempted
 18 pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section; a full-time
 19 Palisades Interstate Park officer appointed pursuant to R.S.32:14-
 20 21; a full-time Burlington County Bridge police officer appointed
 21 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1960, c.168 (C.27:19-36.3); a full-time
 22 housing authority police officer exempted pursuant to paragraph
 23 (16) of subsection c. of this section; a full-time juvenile correctional
 24 police officer exempted pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection a.
 25 of this section; a full-time parole officer exempted pursuant to
 26 paragraph (13) of subsection c. of this section; a full-time railway
 27 policeman exempted pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection c. of
 28 this section; a full-time county prosecutor's detective or
 29 investigator; a full-time federal law enforcement officer; or is a
 30 qualified retired law enforcement officer, as used in the federal
 31 "Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004," Pub.L. 108-277,
 32 domiciled in this State from carrying a handgun in the same manner
 33 as law enforcement officers exempted under paragraph (7) of
 34 subsection a. of this section. A retired law enforcement officer
shall be entitled to carry a handgun pursuant to this subsection
under the following conditions 【provided herein】 :

37 (1) The retired law enforcement officer shall make application
 38 in writing to the Superintendent of State Police for approval to carry
 39 a handgun 【for one year】 every two years. 【An】 A renewal
 40 application 【for annual renewal】 shall be submitted in the same
 41 manner.

42 (2) Upon receipt of the written application of the retired law
 43 enforcement officer, the superintendent shall request a verification
 44 of service from the chief law enforcement officer of the
 45 organization in which the retired officer was last regularly
 46 employed as a full-time law enforcement officer prior to retiring.
 47 The verification of service shall include:

48 (a) The name and address of the retired officer;

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1 (b) The date that the retired officer was hired and the date that
2 the officer retired;

3 (c) A list of all handguns known to be registered to that officer;

4 (d) A statement that, to the reasonable knowledge of the chief
5 law enforcement officer, the retired officer is not subject to any of
6 the restrictions set forth in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3; and

7 (e) A statement that the officer retired in good standing.

8 (3) If the superintendent approves a retired officer's application
9 or reapplication to carry a handgun pursuant to the provisions of
10 this subsection, the superintendent shall notify in writing the chief
11 law enforcement officer of the municipality wherein that retired
12 officer resides. In the event the retired officer resides in a
13 municipality which has no chief law enforcement officer or law
14 enforcement agency, the superintendent shall maintain a record of
15 the approval.

16 (4) The superintendent shall issue to an approved retired officer
17 an identification card permitting the retired officer to carry a
18 handgun pursuant to this subsection. This identification card shall
19 be valid for one year ~~two years~~ from the date of issuance and
20 shall be valid throughout the State. The identification card shall not
21 be transferable to any other person. The identification card shall be
22 carried at all times on the person of the retired officer while the
23 retired officer is carrying a handgun. The retired officer shall
24 produce the identification card for review on the demand of any law
25 enforcement officer or authority.

26 (5) Any person aggrieved by the denial of the superintendent of
27 approval for a permit to carry a handgun pursuant to this subsection
28 may request a hearing in the Superior Court of New Jersey in the
29 county in which the person resides by filing a written request for a
30 hearing within 30 days of the denial. Copies of the request shall be
31 served upon the superintendent and the county prosecutor. The
32 hearing shall be held within 30 days of the filing of the request, and
33 no formal pleading or filing fee shall be required. Appeals from the
34 determination of the hearing shall be in accordance with law and the
35 rules governing the courts of this State.

36 (6) A judge of the Superior Court may revoke a retired officer's
37 privilege to carry a handgun pursuant to this subsection for good
38 cause shown on the application of any interested person. A person
39 who becomes subject to any of the disabilities set forth in
40 subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3 shall surrender, as prescribed by the
41 superintendent, the person's identification card issued under
42 paragraph (4) of this subsection to the chief law enforcement officer
43 of the municipality wherein the person resides or the
44 superintendent, and shall be permanently disqualified to carry a
45 handgun under this subsection.

46 (7) The superintendent may charge a reasonable application fee
47 to retired officers to offset any costs associated with administering
48 the application process set forth in this subsection.

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1 m. Nothing in subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed
 2 to prevent duly authorized personnel of the New Jersey Division of
 3 Fish and Wildlife, while in the actual performance of duties, from
 4 possessing, transporting or using any device that projects, releases
 5 or emits any substance specified as being non-injurious to wildlife
 6 by the Director of the Division of Animal Health in the Department
 7 of Agriculture, and which may immobilize wildlife and produces
 8 only temporary physical discomfort through being vaporized or
 9 otherwise dispensed in the air for the purpose of repelling bear or
 10 other animal attacks or for the aversive conditioning of wildlife.

11 n. Nothing in subsection b., c., d. or e. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall
 12 be construed to prevent duly authorized personnel of the New
 13 Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, while in the actual
 14 performance of duties, from possessing, transporting or using hand
 15 held pistol-like devices, rifles or shotguns that launch pyrotechnic
 16 missiles for the sole purpose of frightening, hazing or aversive
 17 conditioning of nuisance or depredating wildlife; from possessing,
 18 transporting or using rifles, pistols or similar devices for the sole
 19 purpose of chemically immobilizing wild or non-domestic animals;
 20 or, provided the duly authorized person complies with the
 21 requirements of subsection j. of this section, from possessing,
 22 transporting or using rifles or shotguns, upon completion of a Police
 23 Training Commission approved training course, in order to dispatch
 24 injured or dangerous animals or for non-lethal use for the purpose
 25 of frightening, hazing or aversive conditioning of nuisance or
 26 depredating wildlife.

27 (cf: P.L.2019, c.407, s.2)

28

29 9. (New section) Notwithstanding any provision of the
 30 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
 31 seq.) to the contrary, the Superintendent of State Police may adopt
 32 immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law
 33 such regulations as the superintendent deems necessary to
 34 implement the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
 35 Legislature as this bill), which shall be effective for a period not to
 36 exceed 18 months, and may thereafter be amended, adopted, or
 37 readopted by the superintendent in accordance with the
 38 requirements of the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968,
 39 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.).

40

41 10. (New section) a. Notwithstanding the provisions of
 42 subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:58-4, application determinations for a
 43 permit to carry a handgun that were pending before the Superior
 44 Court and filed prior to the date of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.)
 45 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be made by the court.
 46 A Judge of the Superior Court may rely on the approval by the chief
 47 police officer or superintendent, as the case may be, as the basis for
 48 issuing the permit.

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39

1 b. Application determinations for a permit to carry a handgun that
2 are submitted on or after the date of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.)
3 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be made by a chief
4 police officer or superintendent, as the case may be, in accordance
5 with subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:58-4.

6

7 11. (New section) The provisions of P.L. ,
8 c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill) are
9 severable; if any provision, or application of any provision, of this
10 amendatory and supplementary act is held invalid by any court, the
11 holding or judgment shall not affect the remaining provisions or
12 applications of the provisions thereof.

13

14 12. Sections 2, 3, 7, and 10 of this act shall take effect
15 immediately and the remainder of this act shall take effect on the
16 first day of the seventh month next following the date of enactment,
17 but the Attorney General, Superintendent of State Police, and
18 Commissioner of Banking and Insurance may take such anticipatory
19 action as is necessary for the implementation of this act.